

RIXS CREEK MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING: 23/10/2024

PRESENT: Independent Chair - Lisa Andrews

Community Representatives –Cr Sue George – Deputy Mayor SCC (SG), Reg Eveleigh (RE), Deidre Olofsson (DO)**via Zoom at 9:13am*, Patricia Bestic (PB) & Michelle Higgins (MH)

Company Representatives – Chris Knight (CK), Damien Butler (DB – minute taker), Geoff Moore (GM), Julius Harris-Payne (JP), David Holmes (DH), Thomas Holz (TH)
**via Zoom*

APOLOGIES: Chris Quinn (CQ), Kylie Andrews (KA Observer), Brendon Clements (BC) & Chris Quinn (CQ)

- **Welcome**

- The meeting was held on-site at Rix's Creek South.
- The Chair formally opened the meeting at 9:03am.
- The Chair provided an Acknowledgment of Country.
- The Chair welcomed the attendees, noting that TH would be taking over from GM upon his retirement. TH and the attendees introduced themselves.
- The Chair noted that DO was joining online.

- **Apologies**

- As recorded above.

- **Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

- LA advised that she is an approved Independent Chairperson & engaged by Bloomfield. There were no changes to members' declarations. The Chair noted that governance forms would be sent to TH for completion.

- **Business Arising from Previous Minutes (responses to issues raised or provision of information)**

- The Chair noted the timing of the previous CCC, the actions that arose, and the status of those actions. The last meeting was held on 22 May 2024, and the minutes were finalised on 11 June.
- There were three actions from the previous meeting.

Item	Action	Responsibility
1	Review complaint made by DO	CQ
2	Provide information on tyre requirements to CCC	CK
3	Distribute Rehabilitation Objectives and Completion Criteria guidelines to the CCC.	CK

Responses:

1. CK advised that DO's complaint was originally followed up on 15 December 2023 by CQ; however, it was sent to the incorrect email address. The action was closed out on 22 May. CK advised that there were no non-compliance associated with the complaint.
2. CK noted that a presentation regarding tyre requirements would be in the presentation.
3. Distribution of Rehabilitation Objectives and Completion Criteria guidelines to the CCC was completed on 24 May.

- **Correspondence**

- Correspondence Report, as per the meeting notice sent by LA on 11 October and the reminder sent out on 21 October.

- **Proponents Reports and Overview of Activities:**

Progress of the project:

- CK provided an overview of the progress of the project, including the rehabilitation. CK spoke about the closure of Integra Underground and the maintenance underway at the Rix's Creek North CHPP.
- PB asked if the mine would crush in the North. CK gave an overview of the upgrades being made to be able to wash open cut coal at Rix's Creek North CHPP and the elements of Modification 10.

Environmental Monitoring and Performance:

- YEM 2025 Meteorological Data was covered by CK, noting an increase in rain in September and above-average rainfall since April.
- CK covered YEM 2025 Operational Noise. He noted the independent noise consultant who undertook monthly attended noise monitoring, the three noise complaints that had been received and that there had been zero externally reportable noise incidents.
- CK provided an overview of the noise monitoring locations and the predictive noise forecast models.
- CK explained the Blast Fume Ratings for the 50 production blasts that had occurred. CK noted the two complaints received regarding blasting, confirming that no exceedances had occurred. PB noted the inversions that had occurred this year and questioned if the complaints were related to these. CK responded that the blast complaints were regarding vibration and due to longer duration blasts, hence they were more noticeable.
- SG asked if there were any impacts related to the recent earthquakes, and CK said there were none. CK gave an overview of the inspections required after an earthquake, including those for tailings dams.
- PB asked about the clearing at McDougalls Park and the bypass and whether the increased dust will impact the mine's readings. CK spoke about the construction company's requirements to minimise dust. SG noted that the Council had spoken to Acciona to make sure they had dust suppression to mitigate limit dust. PB said the mines could get complaints about the dust. CK noted that the mine was taking photos for its own compliance documentation.
- CK covered YEM 2025 Air Quality. He gave an overview of the real-time monitoring that occurs, advised that two complaints were received during the period and that there were no exceedances regarding dust. CK also gave an overview of the dust gauges.
- CK talked through the results of Rix's Creek North TEOMs. He noted a spike in PM10 during September and advised that the average was still below the 25µg/m³ annual average requirement.
- CK covered Waste Management. He noted the waste management training package that was included in employee onboarding. CK gave an update on the trial with

- clothing recycling from used clothing and advised that high-visibility clothing could still not be used, but that other clothing, such as corporate clothes, could.
- YEM 2025 Surface Water was covered by CK, who advised there had been zero incidents and zero complaints.
 - CK gave an overview of the surface water monitoring locations.
 - CK covered the Electrical Conductivity and Salinity Results. He noted the September increase and advised that the area at Maison Dieu Bridge had gone stagnant. PB asked if this was similar to what occurred during the drought, and CK advised that this would be correct.
 - CK provided an update on rehabilitation. He shared a picture of a rehabilitation area and explained the various rehabilitation elements. PB asked whether the mine had started planting, and CK advised that this had not yet occurred.
 - MH asked who the mine's bio-solids supplier was. CK advised that this was Chris Graham from Resource Recovery. MH asked if the mine has links with the local company Loop Organics. CK noted that the mine undertook a trial with Loop Organics product, that incorporates paper crumble, which showed no difference from the current method. PB asked whether there was plastic in the paper crumble. CK noted that no plastic is contained in the paper crumble and gave an overview of cardboard recycling.
 - PB noted the accreditation forms she had received regarding cattle grazing for her property, which asked if cattle were grazing under wind turbines. PB understood that there was concern regarding micro plastics coming from wind turbines and that the cattle would pick these up. CK asked if the use of Mixed Waste Organic Output (MWOO) material was a question in the accreditation, and PB said it wasn't.
 - DO asked about what happens with mine rehabilitation if companies go bankrupt. DO advised that she had written to the Department and that the Department has said if the company is still operating, the Department can ask them to repair the failed rehabilitation, but if the company has folded, it goes to the legacy mine program. CK said the mine holder can be directed to undertake repair works under Section 240 of the Mining Act. CK asked if DO had written to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure or the Resources Regulator, and DO confirmed that she had written to the Resources Regulator.
 - YEM 2025 Weed and Pest Management was covered by CK. He noted pigs were coming into the South of the operation for the first time. CK said that joint culling operations had occurred with surrounding neighbours with successful trapping and bating of the pigs.
 - PB asked about kangaroo culling. CK advised that a cull had occurred around six weeks ago. CK said there has been an issue with the availability of a local chiller and that most kangaroos were being transported to South Australia for processing. CK noted the previous culls that had gone to Aussie Ark for the Tasmanian Devils.

Community Complaints and Response to these Complaints:

- CK covered the YEM 2025 Community Complaints and the Company Response, advising that ten complaints had been received.
- CK went through each complaint and the company response.
- Regarding complaint one, CK described the pump's sound attenuation and said it was only being run on the day shift after the complaint until the pump was sound attenuated.
- Complaint four, a noise complaint, was received via the EPA. This was from the same night that the compliance testing was being undertaken, and CK advised that the mine was able to support that the noise levels were compliant.
- Regarding complaint seven, CK discussed the evaporative fans used to put a wet blanket on the tailings dam during northwest winds to minimise windblown dust generation.
- Regarding complaint eight, CK advised that there were no exceedances.
- CK advised that complaint nine regarding a blast was a long blast. However, it was within compliance limits. DO said that she believed the vibration was over the top and that bad vibration always happens from that pit. CK noted that the vibration was

2.53mm/sec and gave an overview of the blast, noting the length/duration of vibration would have contributed and said that an internal review was being conducted.

- PB asked if the Bridgman complaints were all the same people. CK advised that the two dust complaints were from the same source. However, the others were from different individuals.

Information provided to community and Feedback

- Recent school tours were discussed, and SG asked about the types of questions the mine receives from students. DH talked through the different types of questions based on the different ages, and PB asked if the students became more negative as they got older. DH discussed the various types of questions from male and female students, noting there were questions about things like flexibility, inclusion, and equipment. SG said questions she had heard at Mt. Owen Mine were about STEM roles. CK noted the presentation provided is aligned with the curriculum.
- Support provided to the community was covered, including the mine's sponsorship of the Singleton Show and funding for Youth Off The Streets. DB gave an overview of the organisation's relationship with Youth Off The Streets, which has been running since 2006, and its work in the community.
- DO asked about the mine's Annual Review and greenhouse gas reporting. DO said that she could not find Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. CK took this question on notice to review the mine's reporting requirements. CK noted that the mine was below the Safeguard Mechanism reporting requirements and advised that the mine does report to the Clean Energy Regulator. DO noted that Mt. Arthur Mine had reported their emissions but that she understood that the mine was below the Safeguard Mechanism. CK said that the business was called Hunter Valley Energy Coal and was likely within the Safeguard Mechanism reporting requirements, given its size.
- DO asked about the closure of Integra Mine and noted that their excess water goes through under The Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme. DO asked about the pumping arrangements the mine has in place and what happens when the pipeline is pulled out. CK noted the contractual arrangements in place, the mine's evaporation fans and the future potential to discharge through The Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme that was being assessed.
- DO and TH left the meeting at 10.02am.

General Business

Rix's Creek North Continuation Project update

- CK noted that assessments for the Project continued during the reporting period. He said further studies to assess amphibians, nocturnal owl and bat surveys, Koalas, and legless lizards (*delma vescolineata*) had occurred, as well as additional vegetation mapping.
- CK provided information on the surface Indigenous and European Heritage surveys, including the additional test excavation for Indigenous heritage that was undertaken.
- PB asked about what European heritage there was, and CK said there wasn't any in the Rix's Creek North Continuation Project Area, however there are coke ovens at Rix's Creek South which were inspected by NSW Heritage while onsite inspecting the test excavation works as part of the Indigenous heritage assessment for the Rix's Creek North Project.
- CK gave an update on timings and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act referral.
- PB asked if the referral stops Bloomfield from mining. CK said it does and discussed implications, such as offset requirements.
- The Chair noted the project's timings and the need to keep the date for the first 2025 meeting flexible. CK advised that an extraordinary meeting could be held and that he would also advise the CCC when the project is referred.
- CK talked through the Hunter Valley Delma legless lizard and described some differences from other populations.

Rix's Creek North Modification 10 Update

- CK provided an update on Rix's Creek North Modification 10, including the issues raised in submissions. He noted that the burying of concrete on site had been raised by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and said the concrete could be crushed for re-use on site.
- CK advised that further vegetation assessments were conducted and included in the response to submissions that had been provided.

Waste Tyre Disposal - Rix's Creek Mine

- CK talked through the current approval and the relevant conditions.
- CK also gave an overview of the mine's Waste Tyre Management Plan.
- PB asked if the tyres could be shredded for rubber crumbs. CK advised that he understands that nobody on the east coast of Australia can shred tyres of the size and noted that there was a lot of metal in mine tyres. PB asked if the site could go to tracked vehicles, and CK said this was not possible.
- MH asked if the management plan had been in place before, or if it was just for Modification 10. CK advised that it had been in place before.

Other business

- It was agreed that a site tour would occur in May 2025.
- PB asked who manages the light at the Rix's Creek North mine entrance and if it can be changed so that it points straight down and not into drivers' eyes. CK said that he would check, beginning with who owns the light.
- MH asked about new community members on the CCC. The Chair noted that KA had expressed an interest and was to attend the meeting as an observer; however, other promotions (via the newsletter, etc) had not attracted any interest. PB noted that she believed neighbours were less anti-mining.

Next Meeting

- The meeting schedule for 2025 was confirmed. The meetings will be on 21 May (including a site inspection) and 22 October 2025.
- It was confirmed that there would be an extraordinary meeting regarding the Rix's Creek North Continuation Project.
- The Chair noted GM's retirement and thanked him for his contribution over the years. GM thanked the CCC for their work.
- The meeting was declared closed at 10:32am.

Action items

Item	Action	Responsibility
1	Review Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions reporting requirements (Complete – sent 11/11/24)	CK
2	Review light at Rix's Creek North entrance	CK
3	Send Governance Forms to TH for completion & return (Complete – sent 11/11/24)	LA